## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1)   A system for distributing data comprising:

one or more frame devices configured to operate according to behavior characteristics, said one or more frame devices each having a border region modeled to resemble a traditional picture frame;

a data repository having image data;

an interconnection fabric coupled to said one or more frame devices, said interconnection fabric configured to relay said image data from said data repository to said one or more frame devices when said one or more frame devices automatically issues a request for said image data.

2)   The system of claim 1 further comprising a picture box viewer configured to obtain a picture box, said picture box having an interface for specifying said behavior characteristics.

3)   The system of claim 1 wherein said one or more frame devices stores said behavior characteristics in one or more behavior modules.

4)   The system of claim 2 wherein input to said picture box modifies said behavior characteristics.

5)   The system of claim 1 wherein said behavior characteristics are stored in said data repository.

6)     The system of claim 5 wherein said one or more frame devices periodically obtains an update for said one or more behavior modules by obtaining said behavior characteristics from said data repository.

7)     The system of claim 2 wherein input to said picture box is permitted when a user is authenticated.

8)     The system of claim 2 wherein a server generates said picture box and a client computer having a picture box viewer transmits said input to said picture box via said interconnection fabric.

9)     The system of claim 2 wherein said one or more frame devices initiates said request at intervals specified in said picture box.

10)    The system of claim 3 wherein said one or more behavior modules directs said one or more frame devices to obtain image data from a content provider.

11)    A method for distributing image data to one or more picture frame devices comprising:

        obtaining image data from a data source;

        populating a data repository with said image data;

        associating behavior characteristics with one or more frame devices;

        requesting said image data from said data repository;

        obtaining said image data from said data repository;

        displaying said image data on said one or more frame devices according to said behavior characteristics.

12)     The method of claim 11 wherein said one or more frame devices has a border region modeled to resemble a traditional picture frame.

13)     The method of claim 11 wherein said one or more frame devices each have a unique identifier.

14)     The method of claim 11 wherein said image data is associated with said unique identifier.

15)     The method of claim 11 wherein said step of populating said data repository with said image data occurs if said image data satisfies filter criteria.

16)     The method of claim 15 wherein said filter criteria is satisfied if said data source has permission to perform said step of populating said data repository with said image data.

17)     The method of claim 11 wherein said one or more frame devices contain a behavior module configured to store said behavior characteristics.

18)     The method of claim 17 further comprising:
        obtaining a picture box having an interface for specifying said behavior characteristics;
        utilizing said picture box to specify said behavior characteristic;
        loading said behavior characteristics into said behavior module.

19)     The method of claim 18 where said step of obtaining a picture box occurs after said data source is authenticated.

20) The method of claim 18 wherein said behavior characteristics are stored in said data repository prior to performing the step of loading said behavior characteristics into said behavior module.

21) The method of claim 18 wherein behavior module directs said one or more frame devices to perform said step of requesting image data from said data repository at predetermined intervals.

22) The method of claim 22 wherein said predetermined intervals are set via said picture box.

23) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for distributing data to one or more frame devices said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code configured to obtain image data from a data source;

computer readable program code configured to populate a data repository with said image data;

computer readable program code configured to respond to a request for said image data by transmitting said image data from said data repository to one or more frame devices.

24) The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising computer readable program code configured to determine if said data source has permission to populate said data repository.

25) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said one or more frame devices has a unique identifier. (1:1)

26) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said image data is stored in said data repository in a manner associated with said unique identifier.

27) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said one or more frame devices contains computer readable program code configured to store behavior characteristics.

28) The computer program product of claim 27 wherein said behavior characteristics are adjusted using a picture box.

29) The computer program product of claim 27 further comprising computer readable program code configured to store said behavior characteristics in said data repository prior to transmitting said behavior characteristics to said one or more frame device.

30) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein access to said picture box occurs when a system user is authenticated.

31) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein said one or more frame devices requests image data from said data repository at predetermined intervals.

32) The computer program product of claim 31 wherein said predetermined intervals are set via said picture box.

33)    The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said data source is a content provider.

34)    A method for distributing picture mail to a community of at least one frame device comprising:

connecting at least one frame device to an interconnection fabric, said at least one frame device having a border region that comprises a traditional picture frame;

obtaining a configuration number sequence from a memory located in said at least one frame device;

using said configuration number sequence to initiate a connection to a data server via said interconnection fabric;

obtaining a localized number sequence from said data server;

terminating said connection to said data server;

reconnecting to said data server via said interconnection fabric using said localized number sequence.

35)    The method of claim 34 wherein said localized number sequence is stored in said memory of said frame device.

36)    The method of claim 35 wherein said at least one frame device utilizes said localized number sequence when said localized number sequence resides in said memory.

37)    The method of claim 34 wherein said configuration number sequence is used when said localized number sequence does not reside in said memory.

38) The method of claim 34 further comprising:

obtaining image data from a data repository accessible via said interconnection fabric.

39) The method of claim 38 further comprising:

obtaining an onboard software update from said data repository.

40) The method of claim 39 wherein said onboard software update modifies the functionality of said at least one frame device.

41) The method of claim 40 wherein said at least one frame device determines whether said onboard software update is current.

42) The method of claim 41 wherein said step of obtaining said onboard software update execute when said onboard software update is not current.

43) The method of claim 34 wherein said step of obtaining said configuration number sequence from a memory located in said at least one frame device occurs automatically.